



BOROUGH OF BEDFORD

Annual Report

ON THE

HEALTH OF BEDFORD

FOR THE YEAR

1958





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BY

C. L. SHARP, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the Report of

E. AVISON, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1958

Telephone Nos. :
Bedford 2261 & 3496

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BEDFORD.

July, 1959.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report for 1958.

There was no substantial change in the health of the Borough within the year except for the occurrence of an outbreak of poliomyelitis which caused the death of three adults. It is regrettable that many of those eligible for vaccination did not trouble to register, whilst at the same time many adults with family responsibilities, although desirous of vaccination, were not eligible. In order to vaccinate as many as possible it was arranged to do vaccination sessions in the factories, larger shops and banks. I wish to thank all those employers who allowed us to carry out these sessions with no small inconvenience and loss of production. I am sure that many of those vaccinated would otherwise have missed getting their protection from this crippling disease. Professor Jonas Salk, who pioneered vaccination against poliomyelitis, stated "... the indications are that less virus is in circulation coincident with the widespread use of a killed virus vaccine in the U.S.A. ...". In other words, vaccination not only imparts valuable protection to the individual but also blocks epidemic spread. The implications of this are obvious, for those eligible—to be unvaccinated hazards not only their own health but also that of the community. Perhaps it would not overstate the case to say they have a duty to be vaccinated, though it is hardly likely that those too apathetic to respond to self-interest will consider the community.

There is good evidence that chronic bronchitis and, to a lesser extent, lung cancer, are considerably more common where the levels of air pollution are high. The Clean Air Act, 1956, gave Authorities the opportunity to exercise control measures, notably the power to institute smoke control areas. Public co-operation and willing participation in such an enterprise are essential, and an Exhibition was held to demonstrate the need and the appropriate control measures. Further information is given on this but in general it may be said to have been very successful.

Dr. Hendry was appointed as Deputy Medical Officer of Health during the year on the retirement of Dr. F. A. Williams after ten years' much appreciated service.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Public Health Committee for their interest and encouragement, and record also my thanks to the staff for their work during a very busy year.

I am indebted to Mr. F. J. Dix for his work in compiling the statistics in this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

CLIVE L. SHARP,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(31ST DECEMBER, 1958)

ALDERMAN L. H. NICHOLSON, M.B.E., Chairman

ALDERMAN A. A. JONES, J.P. (The Mayor)

COUNCILLOR A. R. SHARP, Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR G. R. BAILEY

COUNCILLOR D. F. BARNSDALE

COUNCILLOR F. D. CRISP

COUNCILLOR J. DEENEY

COUNCILLOR J. FINNIGAN

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. F. M. GREAVES

COUNCILLOR MRS. C. M. METZ

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

C. L. SHARP, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

R. G. HENDRY, M.B., CH.B., D.OBST., R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

(Appointed 1st May, 1958)

FRANCES A. WILLIAMS, B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Vict.)

(Resigned 13th April, 1958)

Chief Public Health Inspector :

E. AVISON, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

E. J. CONSTABLE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors :

P. G. ALLSTON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

F. J. O. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I.

R. PEEL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(All the Inspectors are qualified Meat Inspectors)

Chief Clerk : F. J. DIX

Secretary : MISS R. E. HOWE

Other Clerical Staff :

F. V. BATSON (Senior Clerk), MRS. A. ASHER (Shorthand Typist/Clerk),

R. J. DARRINGTON and MISS V. CORAL (Clerks)

Trainee Public Health Inspector :

P. M. D. BILLINGTON

*Disinfectors, Drain Testers, Rodent Destruction Operators,
and Mortuary Attendants :*

F. WOOTTON

H. W. COMMINS

D. THOMPSON

BOROUGH OF BEDFORD

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

I. VITAL STATISTICS

1. Summary of Statistics

Area of Borough (in acres) 4,972

Population—

Census 1951 53,075

Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population for 1958 59,480

Number of Inhabited Houses—

According to Rate Books 17,990

Number of Separate Households—

Census 1951 16,301

Rateable Value (December) £847,244

Yield of One Penny Rate £3,460

Live Births—

		Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 population	
Male	...	569	27	596	Crude	Corrected
Female	...	528	41	569		
Total	...	1,097	68	1,165		
					19.6	19.0

Still Births—

					Rate per 1,000 Population	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Male	...	8	1	9	0.4	17.7
Female	...	12	—	12		
Total	...	20	1	21		

Total Live and Still Births—

Male	...	577	28	605
Female	...	540	41	581
Total	...	1,117	69	1,186

Legitimate Illegitimate Total					Rate per 1,000 births		
Infant Deaths (under one year of age)—							
Male	...	7	1	8	Total	Legi- timate	Illegi- timate
Female	...	7	1	8			
Total	...	14	2	16	13.7	12.8	29.4

Infant Deaths (under four weeks of age)—							
Male	...	7	1	8	Total	Legi- timate	Illegi- timate
Female	...	6	1	7			
Total	...	13	2	15	12.9	11.9	29.4

Illegitimate Live Births = 5.8% of total live births.

Maternal Deaths —

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ... —

Deaths—

Male	...	...	307	Death Date—			
Female	...	...	288	Crude		...	...
				Adjusted		...	...
Total	...	...	595				

2. Vital Statistics, Bedford, and England and Wales compared

	Bedford	England and Wales*
BIRTHS—		
Live Births	19.0	16.4
Still Births	0.35	0.36
	17.7 (a)	21.6 (a)
DEATHS—		
All causes	9.9	11.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	0.00
Whooping Cough	—	0.00
Diphtheria	—	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.05	0.10
Influenza	0.12	0.06
Smallpox	—	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.05	0.00
Pneumonia	0.37	0.05
NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)—		
Typhoid Fever	—	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	—	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever	0.71	0.86
Whooping Cough	2.10	0.74
Diphtheria	—	0.00
Erysipelas	0.12	0.07
Smallpox	—	0.00
Measles	5.62	5.75
Pneumonia	1.18	0.49
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polio- encephalitis)—		
Paralytic	0.20	0.03
Non-paralytic	0.12	0.01
Food Poisoning	0.69	0.20
Puerperal Pyrexia	2.19	0.24
Dysentery	0.13	0.84
	Rates per 1,000 live births	
DEATHS—		
All causes under 1 year of age ...	13.7	22.6
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	—	0.4

(a) Per 1,000 Total (live and still) births.

* Provisional.

3. Population

The population as estimated by the Registrar-General for 1958 was 59,480, and as will be seen from the undermentioned table there has been a total increase of population of 4,710 in the last five years on his figures.

POPULATION 1953-1958

Year	Population	Increase over previous year	Natural Increase	Difference due to excess of immigration over emigration
1953	54,770			
1954	55,170	400	463	—63
1955	56,030	860	372	488
1956	56,450	420	567	—147
1957	57,580	1,130	612	518
1958	59,480	1,900	570	1,330
Total increase, 1953/1958 ...		4,710	2,584	2,126
Average yearly increase in 5 years		942	517	425

The number of registered aliens in Bedford was 3,655 (2,272 males and 1,383 females) an increase of 351 over the previous year, but in addition there are numbers of West Indians and Pakistanis.

Further information on foreign and other nationals is given in a later section of this report and also in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

4. Birth Rate

The number of births is largely determined by the number of women of child-bearing age resident in the area. The birth rate cannot be compared with another area unless it is of a similar sex and age structure unless some allowance is made in the calculation. This is the function of the comparability factor, this being supplied to all areas by the Registrar-General.

The birth rate for 1958 was 19.0 after multiplying by the comparability factor of 0.97, and that for England and Wales was 16.4. The crude rate for the year under review was 19.6.

The total number of live births was 1,165.

5. Still Births

The number of still births was 21 and the still birth rate 0.35 per 1,000 population which may be compared with 0.36 for England and Wales. The corresponding rates for 1,000 total live and still births were 17.7 and 21.6 respectively. In order to eliminate chance fluctuations the figures over a period of five years are given in the following table, from which it appears, that the average figures vary little from those for the country as a whole.

STILL BIRTH RATES

Bedford and England and Wales, 1954-1958

Year	Per 1,000 population		Per 1,000 total births (live and still)	
	Bedford	England and Wales	Bedford	England and Wales
1954	0.51	0.36	28.1	24.0
1955	0.39	0.33	22.4	23.2
1956	0.43	0.37	20.9	23.0
1957	0.49	0.37	23.7	22.4
1958	0.35	0.36	17.7	21.6
Average ...	0.43	0.36	22.6	22.8

6. Death Rate

The uncorrected death rate was 10.0 as compared with 9.4 for the previous year. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the comparability figure of 0.99 by which a corrected death rate of 9.9 is obtained. The death rate compares very favourably with that for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

7. Causes of Death

Cause of Death							Males	Females
ALL CAUSES							307	288
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	10	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	14	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	28	26
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	43	63
18.	Coronary diseases, angina	...	...	...	...	...	59	34
19.	Hypertension, with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	13
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	21	36
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	10	10
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	12	10
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	29	10
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	19	32
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	9	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	9	11
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
36.	Homicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

In commenting on causes of death, reference may be made to :—
Tuberculosis caused 3 deaths, as it did in 1957.

There were 98 deaths from cancer, little different from last year's (105).

Cardio vascular diseases have shown an increase of 22 over last year.

Bronchitis caused 39 deaths compared with 30 previously.

The following table shows the number of deaths from motor vehicle and other accidents in the past five years.

	Motor vehicle accidents			All other accidents		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1954	10	—	10	11	3	14
1955	7	2	9	7	8	15
1956	9	1	10	13	14	27
1957	6	1	7	7	7	13
1958	9	—	9	9	11	20

Only 2 children were killed on the roads, the remainder being middle-aged or elderly. The importance of accidents at home and at work is brought out by these figures.

8. Maternal Mortality

No deaths occurred in connection with pregnancy and childbirth.

9. Infant Mortality

The total number of infant deaths was 16, of which 8 were male and 8 female, giving an infant mortality rate of 13.7 per 1,000 total births over the year, which may be compared with 22.5 per 1,000 live births, the figure for England and Wales.

The table for the past five years given below shows that the figures for Bedford compare well with those for the country as a whole.

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

Year			Bedford	England and Wales
1954	...	...	20.6	25.5
1955	...	...	18.8	24.9
1956	...	...	16.0	23.6
1957	...	...	19.1	23.0
1958	...	...	13.7	22.5
Average	...	...	17.6	23.9

The number of neo-natal deaths, or those occurring under one month was 15 corresponding to a rate of 12.9 per 1,000 live births, which may be compared with 14.8, the figure for the previous year.

INFANT MORTALITY BY SEX AND CAUSE

Cause	Under one month		Total (under one month)	Over one month but under one year		Total (under one year)
	M	F		M	F	
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	1	3	—	—	3
Birth injury	1	—	1	—	—	1
Immaturity (associated immaturity)	2	3	5	—	—	5
Haemolytic disease ...	2	1	3	—	—	3
Other causes	1	2	3	—	—	3

II. PREVENTION OF ILLNESS

(A) FOOD POISONING

The need for, but absence of, adequate standards of hygiene, technique and equipment has been demonstrated over the years by the high incidence of this complaint. As many persons suffer from a temporary illness characterised by abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhoea not lasting long enough for them to consult a doctor the apparent incidence is probably only the visible part of the iceberg.

Prevention would appear simple ; cleanliness of persons and equipment, temperature control by temperatures high enough to kill bacteria and low enough to prevent multiplication (refrigeration does not kill), and the exclusion of rodents, insects and other animals from access to food are the essentials.

Some understanding of the nature of bacteria and of the control measures outlined above, the ability and self-discipline needed to attain and keep high standards are essential. To this end food hygiene courses have been started in the Borough for those in the catering trades. Further comment is given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

A more advanced course on food hygiene to prepare students for the Certificate of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene was also arranged during the year and is now in operation.

If only the public would demand higher standards and complain to managements more progress could be made. Some members of the public, too, are in serious need of better habits with regard to food displayed in shops.

(B) FLUORIDATION

A substantial number of people have been addressed on this subject—school teachers, parent-teacher groups and training colleges. Of the tiny minority in opposition some are of the type who oppose modern medicine in general. Some belong to pressure groups which have specialised in creating opposition by letters to the press, public meetings, canvassing and distribution of leaflets.

It is noticeable that the out-of-date and inaccurate information on which I commented previously has been in evidence ; some masterpieces of the art of slanted and smear techniques have appeared.

The New Zealand Commission of Enquiry considered the writings of the main objectors to fluoridation, amongst them a Dr. F. B. Exner. Their comments in Paragraph 97 of the report reads :

“ In most instances a good deal of research is required to establish the real position and few of Dr. Exner's readers would have access to the necessary material nor would they have the necessary technical qualifications. We consider the report as a whole to be lacking in objectivity, *that it frequently fails to represent the real opinion of quoted authorities and that it is the work of a skilful propagandist.*”

Other propagandists have also been at work and the public should beware of information not derived direct from reputable medical and

dental sources. Careful selection from the writings of established authorities can be made to appear a convincing case against fluoridation. Statements over the corrosive and irritant properties of fluoride, not stating the dose, are often made. It is interesting to bear in mind that honey, fish, chicken and cheese are all good dietary sources of fluoride at approximately 1 part per million (that recommended in fluoridation). As fish and chicken are often advised with benefit for those in a delicate state of health and suffering from digestive disturbances, and there is no valid evidence from either natural or fluoridation areas of any ill effect, such statements about the corrosive effects of fluoride at 1 p.p.m. are ill-founded and show ignorance of the subject.

The Royal Swedish Medical Board recently submitted to the Swedish Government a report which is of interest, as it was based on advice from an Advisory Committee appointed in 1958. Amongst the experts consulted were professors of medicine, paediatrics (specialists in children's diseases), pharmacology, physiology and biochemistry, etc. Consideration was given to (i) fluoridation of drinking water, (ii) administration in tablets, salt and milk, and (iii) by topical application of fluoride to the dental enamel. Their conclusions were that fluoridation was superior and that the other methods could not replace it. Their recommendation was that :

“ Being convinced that fluoridation of drinking water is an effective means of preventing caries in children and young persons, the Board would continue to recommend that communities which desire to start fluoridation of their domestic water supplies should be authorised to do so under the necessary technical control.”

An editorial in the *Medical World* of March, 1958, concluded :

“ Whether through excessive caution or parsimony, we are falling behind in the application of this important advance in preventive medicine. The British Dental Association has come out firmly in support of fluoridation and every responsible scientific body throughout the world which has considered the problem supports it. What are we waiting for ? ”

It should never be forgotten that an immense amount of pain and suffering, a great deal of which is avoidable, is being borne by our child population. They are unable to write letters to the press on this subject, the bulk of which appear to be written by middle-aged or childless persons.

(C) SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER

The conclusion reached that smoking is the major cause of lung cancer has not been effectively challenged although there has been a much more determined attempt to exculpate the cigarette and blame aerial pollution and in particular the diesel engine.

The tobacco industry can and do advertise on a vast scale, and the revenue from tobacco amounts to £712,000,000 !

The lung cancer rate rises with the amount smoked and significantly falls on giving up the habit and is comparatively rare in non-smokers (only 2½% of those who developed lung cancer in Bedfordshire in 1956

were non-smokers). Workers in garages and London policemen who are particularly exposed to diesel fumes do not show any evidence of a special hazard, and investigations in other countries have failed to implicate aerial pollution as the main cause. There is no reason to disagree with Professor Bradford Hill's estimate that only about 20-30% of cases may be due to aerial pollution. It looks as if the 70% acquired from smoking will continue.

Anyone who has attempted to grapple with this problem knows that the tobacco addict is no more open to persuasion than addicts to other substances.

The death rate continues to rise and there is an urgent need to pursue :

- (i) Research into exact carcinogens and their removal by treating the leaf or by filters.
- (ii) Research into methods of treating the addiction.
- (iii) Research into the psychological aspects to counter advertising, which is often aimed at appealing to the snob instinct—the smoker depicted as a successful man in an expensive setting, aeroplane, hotel, etc.

This will cost a great deal of money, but there is no reason why it cannot be done quite easily out of the vast sum brought in by revenue. One thing is certain, the present methods are futile to save those most at risk. One can dissuade some of the younger generation. There is, of course, free choice, but the case against smoking must be presented in such a way and on such a scale as to ensure that people really do know the risks and expense of smoking. This has not yet been done.

III. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

(A) FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH NATIONALS

The Public Health Department was asked to submit a report on Foreign and Commonwealth Nationals, and this is given in more detail in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Briefly, investigations showed a considerable influx of such persons and an increasing number of houses let in lodgings. It is not possible to separate and deal with all the problems arising therefrom as they are closely inter-related.

The influx of many persons more susceptible to tuberculosis and living under conditions favouring the spread of this disease was obviously a potential danger, and the desirability of a special Mass X-ray Campaign was considered. The Mass X-ray Unit was contacted and the date of a visit to Bedford in 1959 arranged. The difficulties of getting along those foreign and commonwealth nationals and those in Social Classes IV and V, the priority groups, are immense. The ordinary publicity in posters and press usually fails to penetrate this group, who find making the necessary arrangements more difficult.

The importance of housing, standards of education, hygiene, income, family size and habits on health need little stressing. A high level of employment with good income levels and National Assistance has not had the effect that many optimists had hoped. There are good reasons to think that the human factors are of more importance and much more difficult to solve than was previously thought.

The Health Department makes its contribution to solving these difficulties through its Public Health Inspectors dealing with the environmental problems and the Health Visitors advising on personal health problems, particularly with regard to infant and child care.

Clear thinking on these problems tends to become difficult because of the colour question. It must be stressed that the real problems arise because of differences in habits and background, and have little to do with colour. Furthermore, it should be realised that the coloured immigrants are not a representative sample, being drawn almost entirely from the unskilled and semi-skilled groups. The differences in outlook and mode of living between Social Classes I and V are still considerable in this country: in India, Pakistan and the West Indies the differences are even more marked. It is important to bear this in mind, for if this is not taken into consideration logical though false conclusions are reached and further exacerbate the difficulties of assimilation.

(B) AGED PERSONS

The plight of the aged is becoming more obvious, and the need for providing for their specialised requirements grows more apparent.

The Social Medicine Research Unit of Manchester University carried out an investigation. The conclusions reached by Professor C. Fraser Brockington were:

1. There was a deficiency in publicity describing services available to the aged.

2. There was a deficiency in ascertainment, and the local authority was often not informed of old people in need.
3. The potentiality of the services was greater than that which was obtained.
4. Services were called in at the breakdown point, and not at an earlier stage where breakdown could be prevented.

I think these conclusions are relevant in Bedford.

Whereas we do discover a considerable number of people in need by our Health Visitors, Public Health Inspectors and Welfare Workers there must be quite a number who could be brought to our notice earlier by neighbours. Perhaps no action is taken because of a fear of being criticised as a busy-body or fear of being involved in some way. No doubt, too, the fear of officialdom, the menacing "they" who may arrange for the person to be taken away and who in the minds of the older generation are associated with the Poor Law and the Workhouse all play a part. Some of these fears can be easily dispelled. We have a grave shortage of beds for old people so that there is no desire to solve problems by removing old people unnecessarily. The Health Visitors, who are specially-trained nurses, and others who visit on behalf of the Authority, can make discreet enquiries and are used to advising on all sorts of problems. More help is available than many old people realise. These services could be brought to bear if we were informed, and even if on enquiry our services were not needed the knowledge of our interest might be of some solace to the old, who in many cases live lonely lives.

The fear of untimely death is now being replaced by the fear of survival in an incapacitated state, crippled as a result of arthritis and suffering from some mental deterioration as a result of arteriosclerosis, often alone or with relatives exhausted or too far away to help, or sometimes, sad to say, disinterested ; though in all fairness it must be said that there has been too much facile criticism of neglect by relatives. The difficulties of coping with the semi-demented and incontinent are rarely appreciated by the public at large.

IV. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. General

With few exceptions all houses have an internal water supply and are connected with the sewers.

2. Water Supply

(A) QUALITY AND QUANTITY

I am indebted to the Water Engineer for the following information relating to the water supply.

- (i) The water supply to the Borough has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- (ii) A summary of the results of bacteriological examinations of the raw water and of the water going into supply is given below :

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS, 1958

Source	No. of samples	Presumptive coliforms			B. Coli, Type I			Plate counts		
		% positive	% with 1800+ orgs.	Av. orgs. per 100 ml.	% positive	% with 1800+ orgs.	Av. orgs. per 100 ml.	No. of samples	Av. orgs. per ml.	
									37°C.	20°C.
Raw Water ...	55	100	36*	1132+	100	14	811	55	628	2770
Water to Supply	684	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	55	18	7
Town samples after repairs ; from new mains, etc. ...	232	5.5†	Nil	—	0.4	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	Nil

* All the 1800+ samples were obtained during the winter or when the river was in flood.

† Represents 13 samples from 3 new mains not in use and 2 builders' standpipes.

- (iii) Water not likely to have plumbo-solvent action. Samples taken twice a month contained no measurable amount of lead.
- (iv) All work on old and new mains is followed by chlorination and check bacteriological sampling by the Waterworks Chemist.

Safety

Waterworks personnel are, where appropriate, submitted to blood tests to exclude the possibility of any being carriers of typhoid.

A summary of chemical analyses of the raw water and the fully treated water is given in the following table.

BOROUGH OF BEDFORD—WATER DEPARTMENT
CHEMICAL ANALYSES, YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1958

	Raw Water		Treated Water	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
Reaction (pH) ...	7.5–8.4	8.0	7.1–7.9	7.5
Turbidity (silica scale) ...	195–7	24	0–1	Less than 1.0
Colour (Hazen Units) ...	2–100	27	1–15	Less than 3.0
Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃ ...	174–292	239	200–284	237
Non-carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃ ...	84–224	137	86–232	133
Total Hardness ...	284–480	376	324–482	380
Free Carbon Dioxide ...	2.0–9.0	4.7	6.0–32.0	15.0
Total Solids ...	600–516	558	518–560	543
Chlorine as Chlorides ...	24–43	33	27–46	35
Electric Conductivity (reciprocal megohms per c.c. at 20°C.) ...	440–800	681	580–800	691
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (Free and Saline Ammonia) ...	Trace to 0.95	0.04	Trace to 0.1	0.005
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.09–1.8	0.3	0.03–0.56	0.1
Nitrogen in Nitrites ...	—	0.02	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen in Nitrates ...	0.4–5.7	2.7	0.3–4.9	2.5
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. ...	0.6–6.8	2.8	0.4–2.8	1.2
Iron ...	Trace		Nil to bare trace	Nil
Copper ...	Trace		Nil to 0.1	Less than 0.05
Lead ...	Trace		Nil	Nil
Zinc ...	Trace		Nil	Nil
Calcium ...	102–163	137	114–165	138
Magnesium ...	4–14	9.0	7–13	9.0
Fluorine ...	Trace to 0.3	0.2	Trace to 0.24	0.16
Silica ...	—	8	—	6
Aluminium ...	—	—	—	Less than 0.1
Sulphates ...	91–155	121	90–148	126
Phosphate ...	0.2–1.2	0.7	0.2–0.8	0.45
Anionic detergent (as Manoxol O.T. after Longwell and Maniece) ...	Nil–0.45	0.26	Nil–0.28	0.13

Results in parts per million.

The following tables show the result of examinations undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS—FULLY TREATED WATER

No. of samples of water in the course of distribution	Presumptive coliforms		Faecal coliforms	
	Pos.	av. orgs. per 100 ml.	Pos.	av. orgs. per 100 ml.
167*	4	2	1	2

* 1 sample broken and not examined.

Cases where coliforms are found are referred to the Water Department for further investigations. No evidence of pollution dangerous to health was discovered. All repeat samples were negative.

(B) UNTREATED RAW WATER

18 samples were taken from the Borough Pumping Station. The following table shows the results of these samples.

Presumptive coliforms per 100 ml.		Faecal coliforms per 100 ml.	
Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
1,800+	225	1,800+	35

The results are to be expected for a low-land river such as the Ouse.

(C) SUPPLY TO DWELLING HOUSES

All houses are supplied from public water mains direct except 14 houses which are supplied by 4 standpipes.

(D) SWIMMING BATHS AND PADDLING POOL

Samples were taken from six officially controlled or generally recognised bathing places in the river and one paddling pool. The results are as follows :

No. of samples	Presumptive coliforms per 100 ml.		Faecal coliforms per 100 ml.	
	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
166	18,000+	Nil	5,500	Nil

The results are comparable to those shown above of samples taken of the raw water before treatment at the waterworks.

(E) WELL WATER

Three samples were taken from wells in the Borough, as under :

Site	No. of samples	Presumptive coliforms per 100 ml.		Faecal coliforms per 100 ml.	
		Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
Factories ...	3*	1,800+	Nil	1,800+	Nil

* 1 sample broken and not examined.

V. HOUSING

1. General

For details of the work carried out under the Housing and Public Health Acts reference is made to the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector on pages 37-60.

2. New Units of Accommodation

During the year 1945 to 1958 the following numbers and type of new units of accommodation were completed.

NEW DWELLINGS AND CONVERSIONS, 1945-1958

	(1) Prefabricated Dwellings (Council)		(2) Permanent Dwellings (Council)	(3) Permanent houses erected by builders	(4) Conversions: Houses into flats		(5) Other adapta- tions. Additional units of accommo- dation	(6) Total additional units of accommo- dation provided
	Tem- porary	Perma- nent			(i)	(ii)		
1945-1957 totals	180	158	2,148	976	137	312	14	3,651
1958	—	—	174	237	8	27	—	430
Totals ...	180	158	2,322	1,213	145	339	14	4,081

NOTES.—The totals in columns (6) are obtained by adding the figures in columns (1), (2), (3) and (5) as they stand, and in the case of column (4) by subtracting the figures in column (i) from those in column (ii) to find the number to be included in the total. This last procedure may not always be quite accurate, but gives a sufficient approximation.

It should be noted that demolitions amounted to 332 over this period.

3. Housing Requirements

(A) APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

I am informed by the Housing Manager that the number of applicants for houses on the books of the Corporation at the end of the year was 1,445.

The following shows the number of applicants at the end of each year over the past ten years.

Year					No. of Applicants
1949	...	...	...	...	2,262
1950	...	...	...	...	2,328
1951	...	...	...	...	2,593
1952	...	...	...	...	1,674*
1953	...	...	...	...	1,584
1954	...	...	...	...	2,109
1955	...	...	...	...	1,579
1956	...	...	...	...	1,783
1957	...	...	...	...	1,484
1958	...	...	...	...	1,445

* The number of applicants shows a considerable diminution on the number for the previous year, namely 2,593. This reduction is largely due to steps taken by the Housing Committee to bring the lists up-to-date by communicating with all applicants and striking off the list all those who for one cause or another no longer desired to maintain their applications.

In spite of the large number of houses built in the last few years the number of applicants for houses shows no great reduction.

VI. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Infectious Diseases, other than Tuberculosis

(A) GENERAL STATISTICS

The following table shows in summary form the number of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of deaths from these diseases.

DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED

Disease	Total cases notified	Total deaths registered
Scarlet Fever	42	—
Whooping Cough	125	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Measles	323	—
Acute Pneumonia	72	22
Meningococcal Infection	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—		
Paralytic	11	3
Non-Paralytic	7	—
Acute Encephalitis—		
Infective	—	—
Post Infectious	—	—
Dysentery	8	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	132	—
Smallpox	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—
Food Poisoning	40	—
Jaundice	9	—
Erysipelas	8	—
Malaria	—	—

The following tables gives the number of infectious diseases notified divided into groups of age and sex.

	Scarlet fever		Whoop- ing cough		Acute poliomyelitis		Measles		Diphtheria		Dysentery		Menin- gococ- cal infec- tion	
					Paraly- tic	Non- para- lytic								
Under 1 year ...	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 year ...	—	—	6	5	2	—	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	1
2 years ...	—	—	7	3	1	1	14	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 years ...	—	1	7	6	1	—	19	16	—	—	1	—	—	—
4 years ...	3	2	5	5	—	—	17	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 years ...	4	2	5	11	1	1	28	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 years ...	13	12	21	40	—	—	67	81	—	—	1	3	—	—
15-24 years ...	—	2	—	2	—	—	6	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
25 years and over ...	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	23	19	51	74	8	3	159	164	—	—	3	5	—	2

	Acute pneumonia		Smallpox		Acute Encephalitis		Enteric or typhoid fever		Para- typhoid fevers	
					Infective	Post- infectious				
Under 5 years ...	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5-14 years ...	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44 years ...	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-64 years ...	11	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	12	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	9	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	42	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Erysipelas		Food poisoning		Puerperal Pyrexia		Ophthal- mia neona- torum		Jaundice		Malaria	
Under 5 years ...	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5-14 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—
15-44 years ...	—	—	1	24	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
45-64 years ...	1	1	1	12	—	132	—	—	1	2	—	—
65 years and over ...	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages)	2	6	4	36	—	132	2	1	1	8	—	—

(B) INDIVIDUAL DISEASES

Scarlet Fever

Forty-two cases were notified, as compared with seventy-five the previous year. All were of a mild type.

Whooping Cough

Whooping cough was prevalent until the middle of the year, mainly of a mild type. 125 notifications were received.

Measles

The number of cases of measles notified was 323 and most of these occurred in the latter part of the year, when this disease became widespread in the country generally.

Diphtheria

No cases occurred.

Dysentery

Only eight cases were notified, compared with 100 the previous year.

Jaundice

Nine cases were reported, three of which occurred in a girls' school boarding house. None of these were of a serious type.

Puerperal Pyrexia

The greater part of the notifications received were in respect to patients in a local hospital who had developed a rise in temperature, usually of a slight nature but which necessitated notification in accordance with the Regulations.

Pneumonia

There was a reduction in cases notified over the previous year, the numbers being 72 in 1958, and 83 in 1957. Twenty-two deaths occurred, a decrease of nine over the previous year.

Poliomyelitis

A routine checking of faecal specimens from healthy children drawn at random from the population revealed that a small boy was carrying Polio Virus Type I. Enquiry revealed that he had had a mild pyrexial illness with pains in the legs about a fortnight before.

Later on the 11th of September a twenty-month-old baby fell ill with paralytic poliomyelitis. Type I virus was isolated from two other children living in the same household.

On the 23rd of September a seventeen-year-old youth fell ill with the paralytic form of the disease : his brother, who had been vaccinated, fell ill later but no paralysis ensued.

On 6th of October a sixteen-month-old infant fell ill. A contact excreting Type I virus was discovered in the same household.

Then on the 9th of October I was called in by the family doctor to see two families. In the first the father and two children were transferred to a specialist hospital for poliomyelitis and in the second the mother. Despite treatment the two adults died from the bulbar form of the disease. Other cases followed, and another adult died suddenly. Further cases and deaths occurred outside the Borough.

SUMMARY OF CASES

Adults : 5 cases. 3 deaths. Ages : 32, 44 and 50.
 Children : 13 cases. 8 were of pre-school age.

A number of cases were diagnosed on clinical grounds but further confirmation was lacking. In two cases viruses other than poliomyelitis were detected.

The outbreak was dealt with on the procedure recommended by the Ministry of Health. The outbreak showed that the Public Health Laboratory was of great assistance in detecting carriers and confirming the diagnosis indirectly. It further outlined the difficulties in diagnosing the non-paralytic case, the baneful effect of continued activity during the period of infection, and the spread through the population.

Vaccination suddenly became more popular, and demands were made for special groups thought to be more at risk to be done. However, it must be stressed that substantial immunity does not begin until after the second injection—that is, one month after the first, and furthermore, the level of immunity is considerably higher after the third injection over seven months later. Vaccination, to be most effective, must be completed some eight months before exposure, and it is useless for rapid protection of exposed groups. It is to be hoped that all those who are eligible for vaccination will have made an application before this report is published. Parents should remember that they and their children may spend many years regretting the omission of this sensible step to prevent a serious disease.

The poetry of Omar Khayyam is apposite :
 “ The moving finger writes, and having writ
 Moves on : not all your piety nor wit
 Shall lure it back to cancel half a line
 Nor all your tears wash out a word of it.”

Parents who have not had their sons or daughters vaccinated should do so without delay. Young people of above school age may need some persuasion.

Food Poisoning

(a) Food poisoning notifications (corrected) as returned to Registrar-General :

1st Quarter	...	...	...	...	—
2nd Quarter	...	...	...	...	—
3rd Quarter	...	...	...	...	5
4th Quarter	...	...	...	...	35
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	40
					—

(b) Cases otherwise ascertained :

1st Quarter	...	...	...	...	—
2nd Quarter	...	...	...	...	—
3rd Quarter	...	...	...	...	23
4th Quarter	...	...	...	...	—
Total					23

(c) Fatal cases :

1st Quarter	...	...	...	...	—
2nd Quarter	...	...	...	...	—
3rd Quarter	...	...	...	...	—
4th Quarter	...	...	...	...	—
Total					—

PARTICULARS OF OUTBREAKS

Agent	No. of Outbreaks		No. of Cases		Total No. of cases
	Family outbreaks	Other outbreaks	Notified	Otherwise ascertained	
S. Typhimurium ...	1	1	4	4	8
Cl. Welchii ...	—	1	33	—	33
Agent not identified ...	—	1	1	19	20

SINGLE CASES

Agent	No. of Cases		Total No. of Cases
	Notified	Otherwise ascertained	
S. Typhimurium ...	2	—	2
Agent not identified ...	—	—	—

Salmonella Infections, not food-borne : Nil.

Puerperal Pyrexia

132 cases occurred, and most of these were in a local hospital. It is not necessarily an alarming condition but is notified in accordance with the Regulations.

2. Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of new cases and the number of deaths in their age groups.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES AND DEATHS

Age Periods					New Cases				Deaths			
					Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	...	...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
25	...	...	...	...	4	6	1	1	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	...	...	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	...	...	...	2	5	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals					19	20	3	3	2	—	1	—

The death rate was 0.05 per thousand which may be compared with the rate of 0.16 for England and Wales.

TUBERCULOSIS—CASES NOTIFIED DURING LAST 5 YEARS

Year	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
1954	25	26	1	7	59
1955	27	34	3	7	71
1956	23	12	4	—	39
1957	24	22	2	5	53
1958	19	20	3	3	45

The following table for the last five years shows the decline in the death rate which has taken place in the country generally. The preceding table generally shows a notable decrease in the cases notified

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATES

Year	All forms			Respiratory			Non-respiratory		
	No. in Bedford	Rate per 1,000		No. in Bedford	Rate per 1,000		No. in Bedford	Rate per 1,000	
		Bedford	England and Wales		Bedford	England and Wales		Bedford	England and Wales
1954	6	0.11	0.18	6	0.11	0.16	0	—	0.02
1955	4	0.07	0.15	2	0.04	0.13	2	0.04	0.01
1956	8	0.14	0.12	8	0.14	0.11	0	—	0.01
1957	2	0.03	0.11	1	0.02	0.09	1	0.02	0.01
1958	3	0.05	0.10	2	0.03	0.09	1	0.01	0.01
Average 1954-58	6	0.80	0.13	4	0.07	0.12	0.8	0.01	0.01

The general decline in deaths from tuberculosis is shown by the figures and small fluctuations in the numbers occur over the years without any significant factors being at work. The possibility that our immigrant population represent a potential increase may be determined during 1959.

5. Verminous Infestation

The following table shows the work carried out during the year.

NUMBER OF PERSONS AND VERMINOUS HEADS EXAMINED AND TREATED AT THE CLEANSING STATION

					Bedford	County
Pre-School Children	...	...			4	—
School Children	...	...	...		19	2
Adults	...	...	...	...	3	1

Two cases of scabies were treated, both being Indian nationals.

VII. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47

1. Persons in need of care and attention

This Section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

It was necessary to take legal action for the compulsory removal to the Bedford General Hospital (North Wing) in two cases :

One an elderly spinster on the 19th March and who subsequently remained as a voluntary patient ;

The second case, an elderly widow, on the 30th September, and who died on the 21st November in another hospital to which she had been later removed.

Consideration was given to a third case, but the relatives took over the responsibility of her care and, therefore, no further action was necessary.

It is to be noted that action can only be taken when conditions are found to be insanitary. This is a serious defect in practice, as benevolent neighbours, home helps, nurses and others maintain conditions which would otherwise become appalling and wear themselves out in the process. Often the old person is suffering from some degree of senile dementia and whilst not certifiable makes life difficult for the neighbours either by noise at night or general cantankerousness.

2. Care of the Aged

The care of the aged continues to occupy a good deal of the time of the staff of the Public Health Department. When old people are not receiving adequate care from their families or other persons the policy is of bringing all services to bear, including those administered by the County Council, to prevent such deterioration of conditions as would make removal to hospital necessary.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

(A) MORTUARY

The following table shows the work done in connection with the Mortuary. The total number of bodies received, 151, showed an increase on that of the previous year by twenty-three. Seventy-six of the bodies received came from outside areas.

BODIES RECEIVED

Post mortems carried out			Post mortems not carried out		
Bodies received from Borough	Bodies received from other areas	Total	Bodies received from Borough	Bodies received from other areas	Total
71	74	145	4	2	6

(B) DOMESTIC BATHS, COMMERCIAL ROAD

The following table shows the attendances made during the year as compared with 1957 :

			1958	1957
Men	...	...	1,298	1,270
Women	...	...	587	612
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	...	1,885	1,882
			<hr/>	<hr/>

It will be observed that there was an increase of three attendances only over those for the previous year.

(C) CREMATION

As Medical Referee to the Bedford Crematorium I have the duty of scrutinising the application and medical documents required by law.

The importance of adequate investigation before cremation is obvious. The Society of Medical Referees have considered the difficulties arising over certifying that the cause of death has been definitely ascertained and recommend that if the family doctor has not seen or attended the deceased during the fortnight preceding death a post mortem should be held. Cases are, however, considered in the light of individual circumstances but there is much to commend the proposal.

Scrutiny of the necessary documents and investigation of difficulties is taking an increasing period of time. Cremations during 1958 numbered 735.

In view of the restricted land available in towns for earth burial the practice of cremation should be encouraged.

(D) EMIGRATION

Those travelling abroad require authentication of their medical documents by this Department, and this enables us to get some information on numbers and destination. The information obtained is given in tabular form below.

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF SMALLPOX VACCINATION AUTHENTICATION OF DOCTOR'S SIGNATURE

The following shows the number of persons who submitted forms for authentication and details are also given of destination and reason for travel.

No. of persons who submitted documents	Destination			Reason for travelling				
	Common- wealth	Other Countries	Not known	Business	Holiday	Emigration	H.M. Forces	Not known
185	127	52	6	32	54	82	16	1

During other enquiries conducted by the Borough Engineer it was discovered that for every 100 moves 40% are out of the Borough, 15% into the Borough and 45% within the Borough. About three to four times more removals into the Borough are made by outside firms. There is approximately one family leaving for every one-and-a-half to two entering. The shifting nature of much of the population of Bedford is clearly shown by these figures.

IX. CONCLUSION

The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education, whilst noting the massive reduction in death rates in children, also underlines some other matters which give no cause for complacency: the 15% of school entrants found with treatable defects (but not, as Hertfordshire and Liverpool studies have shown, getting treated, despite the available free services); the 4% of the 1957 school population with verminous heads; and the increase in dental decay and the shortage of School Dental Officers to cope with the need for treatment, that about two million children needing treatment do not have it indicates the need for energetic measures to deal with the problem.

Experience over the years has shown that whether it be diphtheria immunisation or mass radiography the public response depends on a properly conducted campaign. Private enterprise goes to a great deal of trouble, employing all sorts of advertising and sales experts, not to forget psychologists as well; they do this year after year because such methods bring results and profits. It would seem that insufficient attention has been given to "selling" curative and preventive measures. Media with effective penetration into those social classes (unskilled and semi-skilled) most in need, such as television, have been devoted largely to education about disease, and whilst this has probably been beneficial in that the public are made aware of progress and thereby cheered and reassured, it is interest in health and the means of promoting it that should be the main aim. It may be said that no one is interested, but the history of preventive medicine has been a furious battle waged between the proponents of vaccination, immunisation, chlorination, etc., and vested interests supported by the ignorant and prejudiced and the latter often unhampered by any regard for the truth. Sometimes, too, professional apathy and conservatism has hardened into opposition.

REPORT
OF THE
Chief Public Health Inspector
For the Year 1958

Telephone : 2261

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BEDFORD.

July, 1959.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour and privilege of presenting my Annual Report for the year 1958, a year in which a great deal has been accomplished, and it is only possible to highlight the more important duties which have received attention throughout the year.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, has become fully operative during the year and there is no doubt that the implementation of this Act will be one of the most important duties of the Department in the years ahead. It is pleasing to note at long last that atmospheric pollution is now being regarded as a serious menace and attacked with real vigour and energy with consequent improvement in the living conditions of town dwellers. A Clean Air Exhibition was held in June and the public response was remarkable. Full details are given later in this report. The Minister of Housing and Local Government announced his provisional approval of the Council's application to make Brickhill a Smoke Control Area and the Order has now been confirmed. The Public Health Committee are considering the question of creating further Smoke Control Areas with a view to the whole Borough being controlled in this manner within the next ten to fifteen years. Recordings of the pollution of the atmosphere in four points in the Borough have continued during the year, and the average monthly pollution at the central station is shown as 11.77 tons per square mile. The smoke and sulphur dioxide concentration apparatus was put in operation in June and by the end of the year it was possible to note the considerable change in the atmosphere between the summer and winter months. The increase in the winter months is in the main caused by smoke from domestic chimneys.

Health Education, with particular reference to Food Hygiene, was again an important part of the Inspectors' duties. In conjunction with the Education Authority a further course of Food Hygiene lectures was held, and twenty-six students were awarded Diplomas on passing the examination. Further courses are to be held in the coming year. As it will be realised, the work of the Public Health Inspectors is becoming increasingly educational, and though it is necessary to institute legal proceedings in the enforcement of Food Hygiene legislation such proceedings are only considered when persuasion has failed. A great deal of work is accomplished relating to structural alterations, equipment and food handling methods at food premises by means of informal action, without resorting to legal proceedings, and the co-operation with all sections of the food industries is remarkably good.

The supervision of houses let in lodgings has caused a great deal of work throughout the year, and the number has increased from 341 at the end of 1956 to 458 in 1958; the number of persons occupying these houses increased from 3,576 to 4,636 over the corresponding period. The influx of Indians and Pakistanis has created its own problems, particularly the language difficulty. This has been partly overcome by obtaining the services of a panel of interpreters who are prepared to accompany the Inspectors on routine and evening visits and translate the legal standards and good behaviour codes into the appropriate language. The standards under which these Commonwealth members are prepared to live leaves much to be desired, and a great deal of time will have to be devoted to these premises to obtain the same standards as in similar premises occupied by foreign nationals. To enable sufficient time to be devoted to these premises the Council agreed to the appointment of an additional Inspector. A full report on this subject appears later in the report.

The Slum Clearance Programme has been accelerated this year with the removal of many families from the central area. There were 166 houses demolished and six closed, necessitating the re-housing of 465 persons. During the year two small Clearance Areas—Newnham Street No. 1 and Cauldwell Street No. 1—were declared, but the decisions of the Minister are not yet known.

The Rent Act, 1957, has achieved considerable improvement in the houses where Certificates of Dis-repair have been issued.

It has again been possible to record 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered in the Borough at the seven slaughterhouses. With the publishing of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958, it is obvious that very considerable improvements and alterations will be necessary at these slaughterhouses if they are to continue in operation in the future. One of the licensees has plans already well advanced for the erection of a modern slaughterhouse away from the town centre on the Council's industrial estate. This proposed scheme, when it comes into operation, will be of great benefit to all concerned.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to the members of the Council, particularly to the members of the Public Health Committee, for their appreciation and co-operation in the work which has been undertaken; to the Medical Officer of Health and all the other Chief Officers and their staffs for their willing help and advice; and to my Deputy, the Public Health Inspectors, the clerical and outdoor staff for their conscientious and loyal support throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. AVISON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

I. HOUSING ACTS

(A) INSPECTIONS

Detailed inspections have been made at 102 houses. Most of these properties were considered to be unfit for human habitation and were formally represented by the Medical Officer of Health.

Two informal and three statutory notices were served upon owners to carry out works of repair ; of these, two were complied with, and at the end of 1958, works were in progress at the remaining three houses. In addition, three houses were repaired as a result of informal notices served in 1957.

(B) DEMOLITION OR CLOSURE OF UNFIT HOUSES

Good progress has continued with the demolition of unfit houses. Most of the properties demolished were within the Central Redevelopment Area. This area is being transformed ; small, congested, unfit cottages in Beauchamp Row, Greyfriars Walk, Roise, Beckett, Patteshall, Greenhill and Hassett Streets have vanished and are being replaced by multi-storey flats, whilst in the Dane Street, Church Square and All-hallows Lane section a start has been made with the erection of stores in the shopping precinct. During 1959 it is expected that the greater part of Greyfriars Walk will have been represented as unfit and in all probability demolished. This will however depend upon the ability of the Housing Committee to effect rehousing of the present occupants. A very difficult problem as many of the tenants are paying a comparatively low rent.

The bungalows in the Mile Road Area erected for the Ministry of Aircraft Production during the last war have now been demolished, with the exception of four, two of which have been converted into a Community Centre and two are being utilised as a temporary store.

153 families were displaced from unfit houses during 1958, most of these having been rehoused by the Housing Committee, only a few families finding their own accommodation.

Two Clearance Orders have been made by the Council, the first comprising of four houses in Newnham Street and the second three houses in Cauldwell Street. A compulsory purchase order was also made in respect of the latter. Confirmation by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government had not been received by the end of 1958.

(C) OVERCROWDING

Apart from Houses Let in Lodgings, only one case of overcrowding was discovered during the year. It is anticipated that this family will be rehoused during 1959.

(D) HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS

(i) *Foreign and Commonwealth Nationals*

It will be remembered that in October, 1955, after protracted negotiations the principle of Certificates of Availability of Accommodation certified by the Public Health Department in relation to Italians entering Bedford was agreed between the various Government Departments and the Italian Embassy. Since that time this system has worked well and few instances have been discovered where Italians have gone to an address not in accordance with the one on the Certificate, but instances have occurred where Italians intending to reside in other towns have arrived in Bedford and obtained accommodation here. This system has given the Department an opportunity of surveying the accommodation before the Certificates were issued and it has been possible to arrange for improved facilities before the Italians had taken up occupation, and very few instances of overcrowding have occurred amongst the Italian families since the institution of this scheme. The Italians are the only workers entering the country to whom Certificates of Availability of Accommodation apply. The language difficulty has caused considerable trouble but since the Italian Vice-Consul has been stationed in the town the language difficulty has almost disappeared. Every assistance has been given to the Department by this Official to smooth out misunderstandings and difficulties encountered in Italian Houses Let in Lodgings.

With the influx of the British West Indians conditions in the Houses Let in Lodgings deteriorated as no previous survey of the addresses they intended to occupy could be made, as no one was in possession of this information. Similarly with the Pakistanis and Indians, no one was aware of the houses they intended to occupy, and it is not until a complaint is made to the Department or the Inspectors discover one of these houses that proper supervision can be exercised. In a number of houses occupied by British West Indians, Pakistanis and Indians, the facilities used are the one originally provided for a single family house and considerable difficulty is caused in insisting upon the provision of adequate facilities for the number of families or persons housed. No authority appears to know the exact number of British West Indians, Pakistanis or Indians now living in the Borough and the figures set out below are only those which have been discovered by routine inspections and on receipt of complaints. An approach has been made to the Ministry of Labour and National Service and to the National Assistance Board, but no records are kept of any of these Commonwealth members unless they are in receipt of National Assistance. These members of the Commonwealth do not need to register with the Police as aliens and consequently there is no record of the numbers residing in the town. The number of Foreign Nationals and Commonwealth Nationals known to be residing in Houses Let in Lodgings at the end of 1958 is as follows :

			Adults	Children
English ...	...	...	196	36
Italians	...	...	2,244	787
Irish ...	...	...	127	27
Jugoslavs	...	...	98	39
Ukrainians	...	...	37	13
Poles ...	...	...	189	50
Hungarians	...	...	18	1
Latvians	...	...	62	9
Americans	...	...	14	5
Czechs	...	...	5	—
Germans	...	...	7	—
Lithuanians	...	...	2	—
Greeks	...	...	4	4
Roumanians	...	...	4	1
British West Indians			388	43
Indians	...	...	82	7
Pakistanis	...	...	132	3
Estonians	...	...	2	—

making a grand total of 4,636 persons (3,611 adults and 1,025 children).

The total number of houses known at the present time to be occupied as Houses Let in Lodgings is 458. It is interesting to note that at the end of 1956 there were 341 houses housing 3,576 persons ; this shows an increase of 971 persons and an increase of 112 houses used as Houses Let in Lodgings in two years. At the end of 1956 there were 207 British West Indians, 24 Indians and no Pakistanis, and the increase is in the main due to increases in the Commonwealth Nationals and the Italian families who have joined their husbands in Bedford.

The use of so many houses as Houses Let in Lodgings has caused a considerable amount of work for the Department, and since January of this year it has been necessary to pay 757 visits to these houses. This figure is insufficient to maintain proper supervision of such houses, but unfortunately it is not possible to devote more time to this particular aspect of the work.

The Public Health Committee considered the problem, and bearing in mind the increasing commitments of the Department due to the re-development area, Clean Air Act and smoke control areas, and the continued growth of the town, recommended the appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector. Another suggestion was that the Corporation should buy up large houses in the areas already occupied by these people and provide the proper facilities to enforce satisfactory standards.

Standard of Living

The standard under which Italian families and workers are living has improved considerably since 1954 when their arrival in Bedford was uncontrolled. In the main, Italians prefer to live with Italians and where houses have been taken over by Italian families and a number of single Italians, the trend appears to be for the single Italians to transfer to other houses and the families to occupy the whole of the accommodation.

This has resulted in some accommodation being available for the children who have been born since the families arrived in Bedford. There has been considerable improvement in cleanliness and additional bathrooms, cooking facilities and sanitary accommodation have been provided beyond the standard which could be required by the Department in many of these houses.

British West Indians

At first, the British West Indians were prepared to live under appalling conditions, but now that a number of them have married or brought their wives over, the standard has improved, although the standard where single West Indians are residing is still far from satisfactory.

Pakistanis and Indians

It is very difficult to differentiate between these two Commonwealth Nationals and in view of the fact that they speak little or no English it is extremely difficult to get them to understand simple instructions regarding overcrowding, cleanliness and other nuisances. They appear to be quite content to live herded together with very limited cooking facilities and sanitary accommodation, and do not appear to have any real appreciation of what are reasonable living conditions.

Other Foreign Nationals

The majority of these have resided in the Borough for quite a considerable period of time and appear content to live amongst other Nationals with the exception of the Latvians and Yugoslavs who in the main prefer to keep to themselves and the standard under which they live is reasonably satisfactory.

Overcrowding

Since the arrival of the Indians and Pakistanis the necessity for the service of Statutory Notices to abate overcrowding has increased, in that in 1957 it was only necessary to serve one statutory notice in respect of the Italian community comprising approximately 2,700 persons, but in 1958 it has been necessary to serve five statutory notices for gross overcrowding and institute legal proceedings in two instances in respect of the Pakistani and Indian community of 201 persons.

General

It is probable that the occupation of houses by such people will cause a more rapid deterioration than normal occupation by single English families. Action to prevent the formation of slum properties with consequent ill effect on the value of neighbouring houses is thus urgent.

Nineteen informal notices were served, fifteen in respect of overcrowding and four requiring additional amenities. It was also necessary to serve five statutory notices in respect of overcrowding. Ten of these notices were complied with by the end of the year. It was necessary to

institute legal proceedings in respect of overcrowding at three houses, details of which are as follows :

	Offence	Result
House—Warwick Avenue (7 summonses)	Overcrowding in 7 rooms	Owner fined £1 in respect of each summons.
House—Amphill Road (5 summonses)	Overcrowding in 5 rooms	Owner fined £1 in respect of each summons.
House—Linden Road (3 summonses)	Overcrowding in 3 rooms	Owner fined £1 in respect of each summons. Owner subsequently fined 4/- plus £2 2s. costs for permitting overcrowding to continue in one of the rooms.

Overcrowding was subsequently abated at these three houses but it does appear that it will be necessary to maintain constant supervision of houses let in lodgings in order to ensure that the permitted numbers of rooms are not exceeded, particularly in the case of houses occupied by Commonwealth Nationals.

(ii) *Certificates—Availability of Accommodation*

Before Italian families are permitted to enter the country and proceed to Bedford, the premises they propose to occupy are inspected and, if considered suitable, a certificate of availability of accommodation is issued. During the year 161 applications for certificates were received and dealt with as follows :

Approved	...	...	...	...	132
Refused	...	...	...	...	29

Several cases have been referred by the Home Office to the local police, where Italians on disembarking at port of arrival have stated that they are proceeding to an address in Bedford other than that shown on the Accommodation Certificate. These cases have been investigated and it is usually found that the husband has found better accommodation for his wife and family, he having done this during the six to eight weeks which appears to be the average time which elapses between making application and the arrival of his family in Bedford.

(iii) *Italian Vice-Consul*

During the year a few cases of poliomyelitis occurred in Houses Let in Lodgings occupied by Italian families. It would have been impossible for the Public Health Inspectors to have adequately carried out investigations into these cases and make the necessary arrangements for the collection of faecal specimens and exclusion from school or work of contacts, without the assistance of the Italian Vice-Consul and his staff. Their assistance in these investigations and on other occasions has been sincerely appreciated by the staff of the Public Health Department.

(iv) *Furnished Accommodation—Rents and Rent Books*

Legal proceedings were instituted against the owner of a house in Chaucer Road in respect of rents being charged in excess of those fixed by the Rent Tribunal. At the time of inspection, overcharging occurred in seven cases, but four of the occupants removed to unknown addresses and it was only possible to proceed with three cases. These were proved and the owner was fined a total of £30 plus costs.

The owners of three houses were requested to provide rent books in respect of furnished accommodation and these books were subsequently provided.

II. HOUSING ACT, 1949

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor is responsible for the administration of this scheme, but during the course of house inspections, the Public Health Inspectors are frequently asked for advice regarding possible improvements and how to obtain a grant. Usually these enquiries are from owner/occupiers and only very rarely from landlords. During the year sixty-four improvement grants were made by the Council.

III. HOUSING AMENITIES

(A) BATHS

Plans for the provision of bathrooms at fifty-nine houses were submitted and approved.

It is estimated that there are some 3,950 houses in the Borough without fixed baths. This figure is slowly being reduced either by the provision of bathrooms or by the demolition of houses, but without legislation requiring a bathroom at each house, it will be many years before all houses in the town will have this amenity, which in these days should be regarded as a necessity.

(B) WATER SUPPLY

The following table shows houses without internal water supply :

Situation	No. of houses	Means of water supply
St. Loyes Street (almshouses) ...	8	3 taps in yard
Biddenham Ford End Cottages ...	6	Standpipe in garden
Total	14	

This shows a reduction of two from the previous year.

Two houses in St. John's Place have been vacated and will remain so until demolition. The Almshouses in St. Loyes Street are included in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme.

(C) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Apart from the eight Almshouses in St. Loyes Street all houses in the Borough have a separate water closet, though it must be realised that at a number of houses, particularly Houses Let in Lodgings, these closets are shared by more than one family. All water closets in the Borough have flushing cisterns. With the exception of twenty-eight houses and seven factories all premises in the Borough are connected to the public sewer.

It is estimated that 380 houses including forty-five almshouses have W.C.'s situated at the bottom of the garden, a reduction of sixty on the previous year due to demolition of unfit houses.

(D) HOUSES WITHOUT SECONDARY MEANS OF ACCESS

It is estimated that there are ninety-seven older type houses in which access from the yard or garden to the street can only be made by the front door. Thus fuel and household refuse has to be carried through the house. A large number of these houses are situated in re-development areas and should eventually be demolished.

IV. RENT ACT, 1957

During the early part of the year, applications for Certificates of Repair were being received quite regularly. Since then the number of applications has slowed down and only one or two are now being made each month. When an application is received, an inspection of the house is made to verify the list of defects submitted by the tenant. If the list of defects is agreed, the Public Health Committee authorise the service of Form J, which informs the owner of the property that unless an undertaking is given to remedy the defects, the Council will issue a Certificate of Disrepair. Subsequently, the owner may apply for the cancellation of a Certificate of Disrepair and the owner or the occupier may apply for a Certificate stating that the items included in an undertaking given by an owner have (or have not) been completed.

It has been discovered that many of the owners are complying with the requirements of the Certificates of Disrepair but are not applying for the Certificates to be cancelled. The tenants are agreeing, on the works being completed, to pay the increased rental, but no application is being made to the Local Authority.

V. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

(A) HOUSES

538 complaints were received in respect of minor defects or nuisances (including blocked drains). These were all investigated and appropriate action taken. 123 informal and 27 statutory notices were served during the year. Application was made to the Borough Magistrates Court for abatement orders in respect of two houses where the owner had failed to comply with statutory notices. In one case an order was made and the owner fined £2, whilst the second summons failed owing to an omission on the original notice.

(B) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

At 4 houses the drains were tested on payment of a fee of £2 2s. 0d. Defects were located at 3 of these houses and the necessary repairs were carried out.

134 drains were tested on complaint or as a result of rat infestation and it was necessary to carry out reconstruction or repairs to drains at 41 houses. In addition 258 blocked drains were cleared during the year.

Notices were served in respect of 71 houses where the public sewer serving these houses was defective and informing the owners that the local authority proposed to carry out repairs and/or improvements and that the cost of so doing would be recharged to the owners of the houses. In 5 cases (involving 28 houses) complete renewal of the sewer was necessary.

(C) HOUSEHOLD REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection and disposal of refuse is under the control of the Borough Engineer. The refuse is disposed of by tipping in disused gravel pits adjoining the Old Smallpox Hospital at Newnham. During the year five notices were served requiring the provision of sanitary dustbins, all of which were complied with.

(D) OFFICES

It was not necessary to take action regarding office premises and as far as is known offices in the town are reasonably maintained.

(E) PUBLIC HOUSES

Extensive improvements to bars and sanitary accommodation were carried out at two public houses and reconstruction of the sanitary accommodation has been commenced at one other public house. During the year two licensed premises were closed.

(F) PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

There are four cinemas and two theatres in the town together with various halls which are used for dancing, whist drives and other social functions. In the case of the cinemas and theatres, yearly reports in respect of sanitary accommodation are submitted to the licensing authority. The other premises are also inspected and only occasionally is it necessary to request that redecoration be carried out.

(G) RIVERS, STREAMS AND PONDS

Unwanted household articles continue to be tipped into the various small streams in the Borough and from time to time it is necessary for these streams to be cleared out. At the time of writing a considerable amount of refuse is in the Kings Ditch and it is to be hoped that when the relief road is constructed this ditch at the rear of Ampthill and Pilcroft streets will be culverted.

(H) PLACES WHERE ANIMALS ARE KEPT

Complaints are received regarding the keeping of poultry in small back gardens; this practice appears to be on the decrease, except at

Houses Let in Lodgings where it is often found that a bird has been purchased and is being kept until the next week-end when it is intended that the bird should be killed. As conditions are frequently unsatisfactory the Council decided to adopt a Byelaw prohibiting the keeping of poultry within fifty feet of a dwellinghouse unless the place in which the poultry are kept is in as clean a condition as is reasonably practicable and is suitably adapted for such purposes. This Byelaw is not as strong as one would wish, but nevertheless should assist in controlling the keeping of poultry at Houses Let in Lodgings.

(I) MOVABLE DWELLINGS

(i) *At Fair and Circus Grounds*

Caravans used by the showmen attending the Statute Fairs in Commercial Road and Goldington Green, and fair and circus grounds in Cardington Road, were inspected and found to be maintained in a very clean condition.

(ii) *Licensed Caravans*

Licences were granted to occupiers of caravans in the following sites :

Site	No. of Caravans
1 Goldington Green	3
“ The Swan,” Goldington Road	2
Bury Walk	1
Farm, Bury Walk	1
Bedford General Hospital—North Wing	1
Waterworks Site	4
Brookfield Estate, Goldington Road	2
	<hr/>
	14
	<hr/>

There are no licensed caravan sites within the Borough.

(iii) *Chalets*

Visits were also made during the year to riverside chalets off Cardington Road which are occupied for short periods during the summer months, and these were found to be well maintained although the sanitary accommodation and water supply leave much to be desired.

(iv) *General*

Six caravans (five of which were occupied) were found to be stationed at the rear of the “ Horse and Groom,” Ford End Road. Town Planning permission was refused and subsequently the vans were removed.

Demolition orders were enforced in respect of two caravans which were considered to be unfit for human habitation.

(J) DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

1. Disinfection

Steam disinfection of quantities of bedding, clothing, etc., was undertaken for bedding firms and national and local authorities and

undertakings, for which charges were made to cover expenses. A sum of £4 10s. 0d. was received in this connection plus £3 15s. 0d. for collection and delivery. Disinfection is also undertaken free of charge, for householders in cases of notifiable and other diseases.

2. Disinfestation

The work of destroying insect pests of all types is carried out by this Department, and no charge is made for this service. The general method is by the spraying of liquid insecticides, or powder, containing D.D.T. and other chemicals. The results of treatment were satisfactory in all cases. There were no serious infestations.

At five houses it was found necessary to remove and destroy filthy bedding and clothing.

VI. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(A) FOOD PREMISES

Regular visits of inspection are made to food premises, particular attention being paid to the facilities for the display and storage of food and to the adequacy of sinks and hot water for cleaning equipment and of the W.C. accommodation and washing facilities provided for the staff.

Attention was also given to the condition of the various travelling vans selling food commodities, and of the canteen facilities provided at the County Agricultural Show.

A total of 1,849 visits were made to food premises (excluding slaughterhouses) and whilst every endeavour is made to obtain the co-operation of food handlers, it was necessary to institute legal proceedings for offences against the Food Hygiene Regulations in the following cases :

Section	Offence	Result of proceedings
9	Smoking in a food room	Fined £3
9	Smoking whilst handling open food ...	Fined £5
9	Smoking whilst handling open food (works canteen)	Fined £5

The Borough Magistrates requested reports in respect of cafes where the proprietor was making application for a licence to instal a “Juke Box”. These were given at the Court and subsequently the Public Health Committee decided that when plans were submitted for new cafes the opportunity should be taken to require separate sanitary accommodation for the sexes for patrons and staff.

Details of food sampling and of complaints which have been received in respect of food will be found at the end of this Report. It may be noted that during routine food sampling a Public Health Inspector was sold an unsound tin of Herring Roes (the tin being pierced and mould growth being evident). Proceedings were instituted and the vendor fined £5.

(B) WORKS AND SCHOOL CANTEENS

Inspections have been made of these premises. Minor works of improvement have been requested at some of the school canteens and it is expected that these will be completed during 1959.

(C) SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are seven private slaughterhouses in the town, four of which are in continuous use, whilst at the remaining three killing takes place on one or two days each week. It is not possible for an Inspector to be present at the time of slaughter of each animal, but regular visits are made to ensure that each carcase (and its offal) is inspected before release from the slaughterhouse.

During 1958 the Slaughterhouses Act came into operation. Various regulations have been made under the Act and the new Slaughter of Animals Act. The effect of this new legislation is that within twelve months from the 2nd November, 1959, the Council must submit to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food a report on :

- (a) The existing and probable future requirements of the district for slaughterhouse facilities, and
- (b) The slaughterhouse facilities which are, or are likely to become available to meet those requirements, having regard to the new standards for the construction of slaughterhouses.

Preliminary inspections of the slaughterhouses have been made and interviews have been held with all slaughterhouse licensees. It is too early to know how many of the existing premises will be replaced, modernised or closed, but one owner has already submitted plans for the erection of a new slaughterhouse on the outskirts of the town.

Details of animals inspected at slaughterhouses by the Public Health Inspectors, together with the amount of meat which they found it necessary to reject as unfit for human consumption, will be found at the end of this Report.

(D) MARKETS

The modernisation of the market stalls and facilities for the provision of hot water are now completed, and all the stalls with the exception of the two mobile canteens are owned and controlled by the Council. The confectioners and fish stalls were provided with polyvinal covering, but difficulties have been experienced during cold damp weather due to the condensation on this particular type of covering. This is rather disappointing as the sheets are ideal in that they can be cleansed easily, but the inconvenience caused to the stallholders is very pronounced. The stall boards, where food is likely to be contaminated, have been covered with a plastic material purchased by the Council and sold to the stallholders. The stallholders selling fish have purchased thermo-plastic trays which can be thoroughly cleansed, and there is no doubt that the market now has equipment of a very high standard. The Council have provided central points from which hot water can be obtained, and the majority of stallholders selling open food have purchased suitably insulated hot water containers.

It is still necessary for constant inspections to be made to prevent the depositing of foodstuffs on the ground and smoking by the stallholders, but gradually the personal standards are being improved.

(E). ICE CREAM

The following statement shows the number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the sale of ice cream.

Premises Registered					
Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	3
Sale of ice cream manufactured elsewhere	...	...	...	...	198

The following table shows the results of testing of ice cream in accordance with the agreed bacterial standards.

	No. of samples	Percentage in grades
Grade 1—Satisfactory	44	89.8%
Grade 2—Fairly Satisfactory	3	6.1%
Grade 3—Unsatisfactory	2	4.1%
Grade 4—Very Unsatisfactory	—	—
	49	

(G) GERBER TESTING OF MILK

Two samples of milk were also tested in the Public Health Department by the Gerber Test. This test gives a rapid indication of the quality of the milk, and on such tests decisions to take further samples for submission to the Public Analyst can be determined.

(G) LIQUID EGG SAMPLES

Fifty samples of liquid egg, e.g. those eggs which are broken at Egg Packing Stations and are collected for issue to Bakehouses and Catering Establishments, were obtained and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory. No organisms of the salmonella or dysentery groups were isolated.

VII. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Systematic sampling is undertaken in order to ensure that milk being sold satisfies the conditions of these Regulations. 363 samples were taken, of which 346 were satisfactory. Some difficulty was encountered with regard to Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk supplied by one dairy, but with the co-operation of the management this was eventually overcome.

During the year a new H.T.S.T. Pasteurisation plant was installed at Biddenham Dairies to replace the former “Holder” system. Check tests were carried out by the Department at the time the plant was installed.

Twenty-four bottles direct from bottle washing machines were submitted for examination. These were taken in four batches. Three batches were reported upon as being satisfactory and the remaining one as fairly satisfactory.

Bedford is included in an area in which only designated milk may be sold.

VIII. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1954

During the year twenty-three licences were issued to slaughtermen. It was necessary to refuse a licence to an Italian National who had not any previous experience in a slaughterhouse. These Acts have now been replaced by the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958 which came into operation early in 1959.

IX. SHOPS ACT, 1950—SECTION 38

This Department administers the above named Section of the Shops Act to ensure that the provisions relating to the health and comfort of shop workers are adhered to, and for this purpose seventy visits were made.

Plans for all new shops are examined by this Department to ensure that they comply with all necessary requirements.

X. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956—SECTION 3

One application was made for prior approval of a gas heated installation in connection with a new store in the central redevelopment area. There is no doubt that as a result of the Clean Air Act many notifications of intention to install furnaces will be received, and it is hoped that by means of the co-operation of firms and businesses concerned prior approval will be requested.

The Council are members of the Clean Air Information Service of the College of Fuel Technology, London, and very useful information is provided through the service. All prior approval applications are submitted for their observations. Although many things could be considered desirable in connection with prior approval applications they cannot be enforced. However, it is hoped that constructive suggestions made by the Consultants will be implemented in connection with large furnaces.

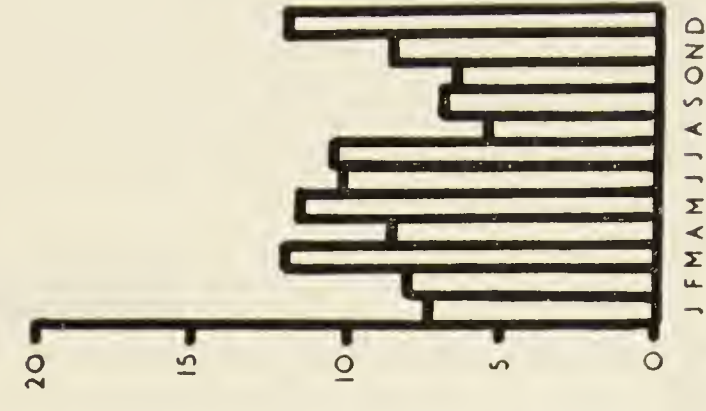
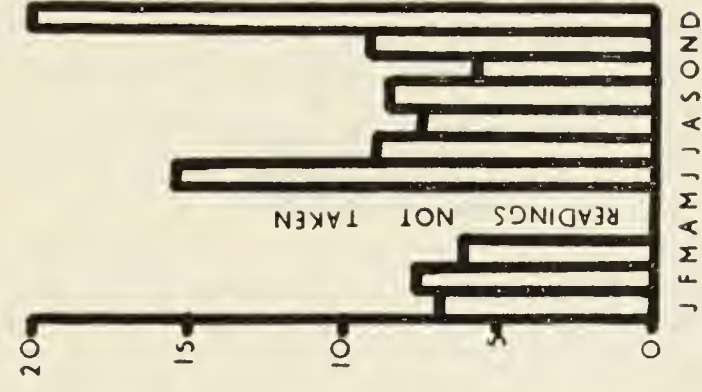
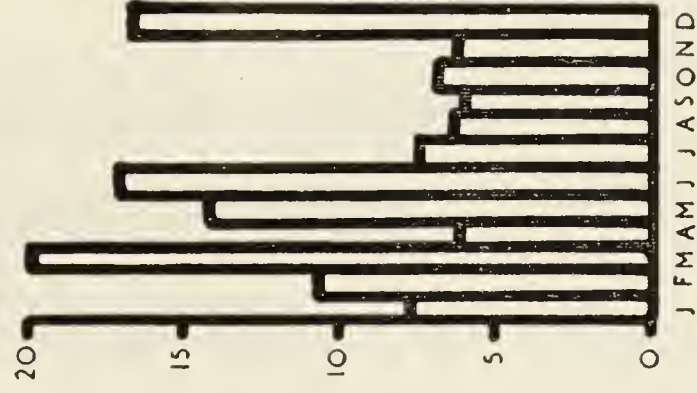
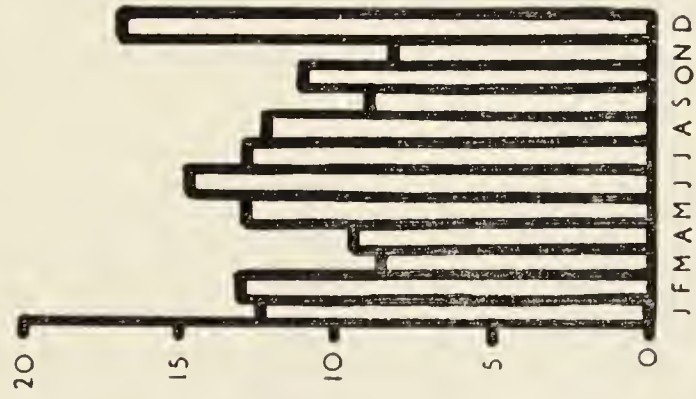
Recordings of the pollution of the Borough are made at four stations, one of which is owned and controlled by the Council. By co-operation with the Central Electricity Generating Board liquor from their stations is submitted to the Waterworks Chemist who completes the analysis from these three stations. The full results obtained are shown in the graph on page 53. The graph showing the smoke and sulphur dioxide concentration results is also shown on page 54, and although the combined results of the pollution cannot be regarded as excessive there is certainly no room for complacency in this respect.

The pollution of the Borough is aggravated by the steaming sheds of British Railways, and it is very pleasing to note that the coal-fired locomotives will be replaced by diesel engines towards the end of 1959. By the elimination of the coal-fired locomotives it should be possible to reduce the atmospheric pollution considerably in this particular section of the Borough, provided, of course, that the modernisation extends to the small shunting engines which are some of the main offenders with regard to the emission of black smoke within the Borough.

MONTHLY DEPOSITS. 1958.

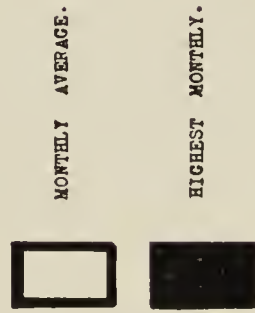
IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE.

MANDER COLLEGE. LANE.
BARKER'S ROAD.
KIMBOLTON HARROWDEN

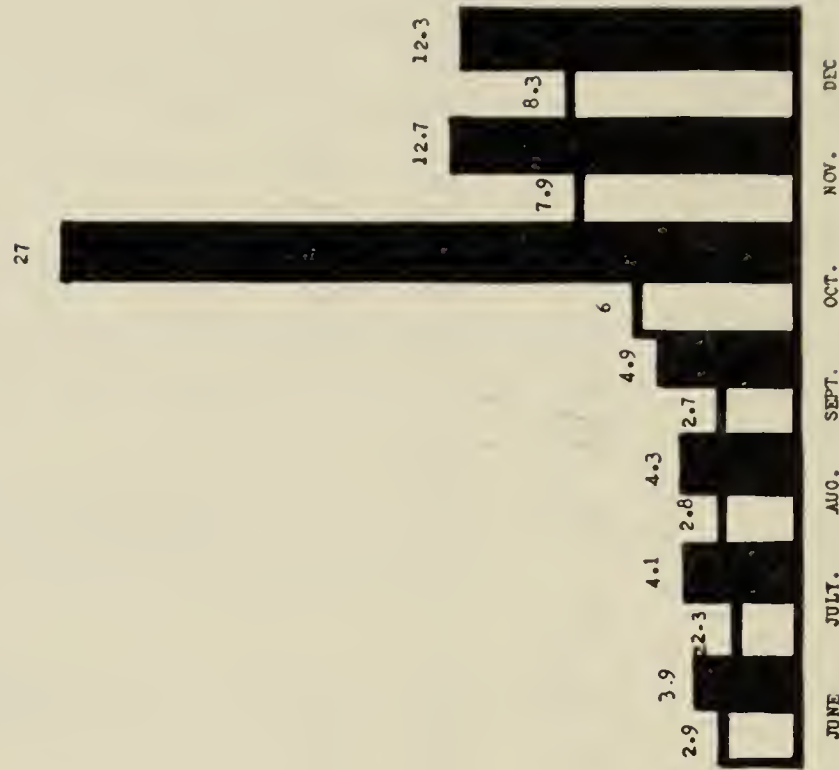
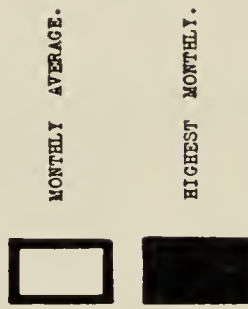


SMOKE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE CONCENTRATION

SMOKE. MG/C.METER.



SO₂ P.P. 100 MILLION.



It is disappointing to note that the oil gas plant at the Eastern Gas Board works is causing a considerable amount of nuisance by the emission of dark yellow sulphurous smoke at regular intervals of approximately eight minutes. This plant is, of course, under the control of the Alkali Inspector who has visited these works on a number of occasions, and the improvements which are now being effected will, it is hoped, tend to eliminate the majority of the dark smoke.

Clean Air Exhibition

As a result of the Clean Air Act, 1956, the Public Health Committee decided to hold an Exhibition to stimulate interest in clean air and to explain the implications of the Act on the householder and the industrialist.

The Exhibition was held in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, from the 4th to the 11th June, 1958, and was officially opened by Mrs. Christopher Soames supported by the Mayor of Bedford, Alderman A. A. Jones, the Mayoress, and members of the Public Health Committee.

The Exhibition was designed to show :

- (a) The ill effects of atmospheric pollution on the health of the public, in particular the relationship between pollution and chronic bronchitis death rates, and also to show the close relationship between smoking, atmospheric pollution and lung cancer.
- (b) The methods adopted to measure the different constituents of the pollution of the atmosphere and the amounts in relation to the Borough.
- (c) A possible solution, i.e. Smoke Control Areas, and how it might be possible to link up the first area, "Brickhill," with areas in the immediate vicinity.

To illustrate these points tape recordings were made and colour photographs shown continuously. From the many questions asked this section appeared to achieve its purpose.

The domestic consumer of fuel was very well catered for in that the Coal Utilisation Council and Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation stands displayed modern approved appliances capable of burning all types of smokeless fuels.

The Gas and Electricity stands displayed not only domestic appliances but indicated how both fuels could assist in industrial processes and at the same time not contribute to atmospheric pollution. The Central Electricity Generating Board's section showed models of Calder Hall and the Thermal Generating Stations, and the steps taken to prevent atmospheric pollution when consuming vast amounts of inferior fuel.

Oil fuel was displayed by Messrs. Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd., and its adaptability was shown by the types of domestic and industrial boilers which could use this fuel.

Modern industrial appliances were displayed by Messrs. Ashwell & Nesbit, Ltd. and Messrs. Riley (IC) Products, Ltd., and now that these appliances include improved supplementary air supply into the furnace these underfeed stokers can be regarded as burning fuel smokelessly. A very useful device was shown by two Exhibitors, viz. Messrs. Lancashire Dynamo Electronic Products, Ltd. and Messrs. Ronald Trist and Co. Ltd., which can be fitted to the base of the chimney stack and sounds an alarm when smoke denser than Ringelmann No. 2 is passing up the stack. This instrument can also be connected to a continuous recording chart which maintains a permanent record of the smoke emitted from the stack. Models for the control of grit, dust and fume emissions were displayed by Messrs. W. C. Holmes and Co. Ltd., and it was remarkable how efficient these models were when in operation. Another small model recently introduced from Germany is designed to remove suspended matter from hospital theatres, conference rooms and small industrial processes by means of electrostatic precipitation.

The National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service stand illustrated by models and photographs the full instrumentation necessary for efficient boiler control, and causes of smoke emissions and possible elimination were illustrated.

The Fuel Research Station showed operating models of the smoke eliminator doors which have been designed to eliminate smoke and obtain maximum efficiency from a boiler by regulating air supply immediately after stoking and during normal working conditions. These doors can be fitted to the majority of hand-fired shell boilers at a relatively low cost.

The British Transport Commission stand indicated by models the shape of things to come by the Dieselisation of engines and the electrification of British Railways as outlined in their modernisation programme.

The National Coal Board exhibit consisted of a working coal mine which aroused a considerable amount of interest. The Clean Air Society loaned a considerable amount of material which was displayed throughout the Exhibition.

Other Attractions

The other attractions arranged were well attended and were as follows: Floral arrangements, film shows, cookery demonstrations, rug making, and the Brains Trust. The team, under the Chairmanship of Alderman Nicholson, was drawn from the Exhibitors, and although the questions were tricky and various the team were able to provide constructive answers.

The children's Poster Competition was very well supported and the winning posters were displayed throughout the Exhibition. These posters were of a very high standard, and prizes and diplomas were awarded by the Mayor of Bedford, Alderman A. A. Jones, who also announced the successful entrants to the competition "Why I should like to live in a Smoke Control Area" at the close of the Exhibition.

The Exhibition Model of the Guinness Clock was a great attraction for young and old, and was very useful as a gathering point for "lost" children.

Catering arrangements were in the hands of Messrs. Dudeney & Johnston, Ltd. and were well patronised.

Press Publicity

The publicity given to the Exhibition, both in the *Bedfordshire Times* and the *Record* was excellent, and the photographs stimulated interest in the Exhibition.

B.B.C. Television

After a great deal of effort it was gratifying to have the Exhibition shown on the screens of Bedfordians and all viewers in the South Eastern Region. By the co-operation of the Eastern Electricity Board it was possible to see these pictures in the Exhibition.

The Bedford Film

The colour film (almost 300 ft.) cost in the making less than £5. The intention of the film was to show the local sources of pollution against the beautiful gardens, churches and buildings in the Borough, and it was exceptionally well received by the audiences who visited the supper room during the showing. The making of the film was only possible by the loaning of the camera by Sir John Howard, and by the cameraman, Mr. Stanley Boyd, voluntarily giving up many hours to make this film. It will be a permanent record for comparison in ten years' time when the pollution from industry, railways and dwellinghouses has been reduced considerably as a result of the Clean Air Act.

Public Relations : Health Department and Exhibitors

After a good start the tempo of interest was well maintained and, as the figures of attendance show, interest rose in the last two days. The Exhibition was a happy one and all Exhibitors expressed their regret when the final day arrived. The friendly relationship between the Department and the Exhibitors was still further improved and cemented. This valuable bye-product of the Exhibition will facilitate the smooth running and success of the Smoke Control Areas.

Conclusions

Attendances were remarkable when one considers the subject matter of the Exhibition, and were as follows :

Wednesday, 4/6/58, opened 2.45 p.m. ...	...	...	524
Thursday, 5/6/58, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. ...	...	...	976
Friday, 6/6/58, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. ...	...	...	816
Saturday, 7/6/58, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. ...	...	...	1,594
Monday, 9/6/58, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. ...	...	...	777
Tuesday, 10/6/58, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. ...	...	...	828
Wednesday, 11/6/58, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. ...	...	...	1,250
Total			<hr/> 6,765 <hr/>

This total included less than 200 children in organised school parties.

Whether such an Exhibition can be regarded as successful is a question for future determination, but all the representatives were agree-

ably surprised at the high standard of the questions asked and the interest taken in the exhibits displayed. A number of visitors returned to enquire about specific problems. Many local authority representatives visited the Exhibition, and visitors were conducted round from Bedfordshire C.C., Bedford R.D.C., Ampthill R.D.C., Biggleswade U.D.C., Leicester C.B., Northampton C.B., Luton B., Dunstable B., Kettering B., Cambridge B., Huntingdon B., Higham Ferrers B., Wellingborough U.D.C., Royston U.D.C., Kempston U.D.C., Hitchin U.D.C. and St. Neots R.D.C. In addition to our local industrialists who visited the Exhibition a number came from other areas at the invitation of the Exhibitors, and the general impression gained during the conducted tours was that the Exhibition was well balanced and well organised. It was the first Exhibition staged in the areas of the Eastern Electricity and Eastern Gas Boards, and representatives from the Regional Boards felt that the standard set was very high for such an Exhibition.

XI. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Complaints of rodent infestation are dealt with as soon as possible after receipt. Should the rodent operator consider that the infestation is caused by rats breaking out from the house drainage system the Public Health Inspector arranges for a test to be applied.

Twice-yearly treatment of sewers is undertaken, and in addition a yearly test baiting of sewers thought to be rodent free is made in order to ascertain whether any infestation has in fact occurred.

Dwellinghouses are treated free of charge, but a charge of seven shillings per hour per man is made in respect of business premises. Forty-four contracts were entered into during the year and the sum of £53 4s. 0d. was charged in respect of this work.

XII. OTHER ACTS AND ORDERS

1. Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are five premises registered under this Act. During the year one sample of cotton felt was submitted to the Analyst who reported that the sample was satisfactory.

2. Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act governs the licensing and the conditions under which pet animals are kept for sale : there are five premises registered. From a hygienic point of view the premises are being maintained in a satisfactory condition.

3. Offensive Trades

There are two traders who deal in rags and bones as well as scrap metal and salvageable items, and six other traders who deal in old metal, etc., only. In addition, the local authority maintain a salvage depot at Newnham.

4. National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50

BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD

As no arrangements for burial had been made by relatives or friends it was necessary for the Department to arrange for the burials of the bodies of four persons. Details are as follows :

No.	Age	Sex	Cost of Funeral	Recovery of expense
			£ s. d.	
1	10 hrs.	M	2 5 0	Full cost recovered
2	21 yrs.	F	11 17 6	No death grant
3	73 yrs.	M	10 17 6	No death grant
4	78 yrs.	M	10 17 6	Full cost recovered

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Building Plans

Plans for new buildings and for alterations to existing premises which are submitted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor are examined to ensure that the premises are satisfactory and comply with Public Health legislation.

2. Public Conveniences

The public conveniences in the town centre are controlled by the Public Health Committee and the Borough Engineer and Surveyor is responsible for maintenance, cleansing and provision of these conveniences. As a number of these conveniences are old and badly sited the Committee have given serious consideration to the modernisation and re-siting of certain of them and it is hoped during the coming year to commence this reconstruction programme. The conveniences sited in the parks and recreation grounds are under the supervision of the Parks Superintendent, and here again improvements and reconstructions are being recommended by the Parks, Cemeteries and Public Buildings Committee.

3. Almshouses

In order to assist the appropriate Committee in filling vacancies at these almshouses the Housing Manager and myself continued the policy of selecting from the applicants suitable persons for the above named houses, and visiting where found necessary before making recommendations.

4. Purchase of Property

Properties in the Central Redevelopment Area and other houses of a low standard have been purchased on behalf of the Council. Premises in the centre of the town are being demolished at a fairly quick rate, but houses purchased in other areas are providing a reservoir of accommodation at lower rentals than new houses, which is of assistance to the Housing Manager when he is undertaking rehousing of families from houses due for demolition.

5. Noise

There is no doubt that in these days of hustle and bustle noise is becoming a serious nuisance, and although it cannot be controlled under the Public Health Act many complaints are lodged with this Department.

One serious complaint was made by residents of houses adjoining a factory where a new shop had been installed, and due to the expansion of the firm noise from the extractor fans was very noticeable throughout the night. Upon informal approach the firm in question immediately took steps to treat the cyclone extractors, and although the noise was not entirely eliminated it was considerably reduced, and a reduction in the number of hours worked at night was arranged.

Many complaints of noise are received in respect of the Italian members of our community. Letters in Italian are sent to the houses from which these complaints arise, but it is very difficult to try and change the way of life of these foreign workers. They like to express themselves very noisily and though there has been a considerable improvement by advice and persuasion many complaints arise during the summer months due to their normal habits of spending a great deal of time outside the houses. This appears to be one of the problems which can only be overcome by persuasion, tact and assistance from the Italian Vice-Consular Officials in the Borough.

I feel sure that the time is rapidly approaching when legislation will have to be formulated to control noise.

6. Public Health Education

Talks have again been given to various organisations in the town on the Public Health Inspectors' duties, with particular reference to Food Hygiene and Atmospheric Pollution.

As stated elsewhere, lectures on food hygiene have again been successful, and the Department co-operated with the Education Authority in organising an advanced food hygiene course. The students were prepared for the examination of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene for the Certificate on Food Hygiene and Handling of Food. Of fourteen students who sat this examination thirteen were successful : of the successful students twelve had taken the elementary course organised by the Public Health Department, and it is gratifying to note that although the standard of the external Examination Board was higher than that of the elementary examination the students who sat had no difficulty with this examination.

There is no doubt that there is a great desire amongst the members of the public to learn of the duties of the Public Health Inspectors and every attempt is made to fill the requests for talks to the interested organisations in the town.

XIV.

Statistical Tables

1. Housing

(A) UNFIT DWELLINGS

	Owned by L.A.	Privately owned	Total
No. of houses represented as unfit ...	84	13	97
No. of demolition orders made ...	—	8	8*
No. of houses included in Clearance Areas ...	—	7	7
No. of houses demolished ...	160	6	166*
No. of closing orders made ...	—	5	5
No. of houses closed ...	—	6	6*
No. of families displaced ...	136	17	153
No. of persons displaced ...	414	51	465

* Included in these figures are houses represented as unfit during 1957.

In addition to the unfit properties at least thirty other houses were demolished. These were situated in the Central Redevelopment Area (proposed bus station), Laundry Square (garage), Goldington Road (road improvements), Bromham Road (garage), and Castle Hill (garage).

(B) SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

No. of houses in Slum Clearance Programme (including additional houses represented as unfit during 1958) ...	...	...	545
No. of houses demolished ...	...	...	267
No. of houses closed ...	...	...	12
		—	279
No. of houses still to be demolished or closed ...	...	...	266

2. Rent Act, 1957

APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH DURING 1958

No. of applications for Certificates of Disrepair ...	...	...	66
No. of applications approved (22 whole, 44 in part) ...	...	...	66
No. of undertakings from owners accepted ...	...	...	38*
No. of Certificates of Disrepair issued ...	...	...	42*
No. of applications for cancellation of Certificate of Disrepair ...	...	...	12
No. of applications approved ...	...	...	9
No. of applications refused ...	...	...	3
No. of applications from owners that Undertaking has been carried out ...	...	...	10
No. of applications approved ...	...	...	6
No. of applications refused ...	...	...	4
No. of applications from tenants that Undertaking has not been carried out ...	...	...	1
No. of applications approved ...	...	...	1
No. of applications refused ...	...	...	—

* Includes applications received during 1957 but not finally dealt with until 1958.

3. Food Inspection

(A) CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and in- spected	2,777	315	236	6,311	7,680	17,319
<i>All diseases except tuber- culosis and cysticer- cosis—</i> Whole carcasses con- demned	1	2	6	9	11	29
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	450	55	3	47	376	931
Percentage of num- ber inspected affect- ed with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticer- cosis	16.24	18.10	3.81	0.89	5.04	5.54
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i> Whole carcasses con- demned	—	2	—	—	1	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	78	18	1	—	132	229
Percentage of num- ber inspected affect- ed with tuberculosis	2.81	6.35	0.42	—	1.73	1.34
<i>Cysticercosis—</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	23	2	—	—	—	25
Carcases submitted to treatment by refri- geration	23	2	—	—	—	25
Generalized and to- tally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

(B) MEAT WEIGHT CONDEMNED

Class of Animal	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases			Total lbs.
	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offal	lbs.	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offal	lbs.	
Cattle (excluding Cows)	—	78	4,382	1	450	8,052	12,434
Cows ...	2	18	1,492	2	55	2,127	3,619
Calves ...	—	1	35	6	3	358	393
Sheep and Lambs	—	—	—	9	47	697	697
Pigs ...	1	132	1,845	11	376	2,500	4,345
Totals ...	3	229	7,754	29	931	13,734	21,488

(C) POULTRY, ETC. INSPECTED AT THE SALE YARD

Fowls	Hares	Turkeys	Pigeons	Ducks	Rabbits
2,259	44	78	30	2	21

(D) OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

Class of Food								lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	265
Bananas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	899
Cake ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Fish ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	280
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Imported Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	658
Poultry and Game	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Tinned Goods—various commodities (3,818 containers)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,539
Total lbs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,922

(E) SAMPLES SENT TO PUBLIC ANALYST

Purchases

Nature of sample	Formal	Informal
Butter	—	1
Buttered Rolls	—	1
Cream	—	4
Fish, tinned and Fish Pastes ...	—	8
Groceries, miscellaneous	—	20
Ice Cream	—	7
Ice Lollies	—	2
Lard	—	1
Meat and Meat Products	—	8
Milk	26	65
Oranges	—	4
Sausages	—	8
	26	129

(F) ADULTERATED SAMPLES

Sample No. (Informal)	Commodity	Nature of Adulteration	Remarks
C.927	Milk	Fat abstracted to extent of at least 45%	Subsequent samples satis- factory

(G) UNSOUND FOOD

Article of Food	Source of Complaint	Nature of Contamination	Action Taken
Apple Pie	Private Individual	Mould	Vendor Prosecuted. Fined £5
Bread	Private Individual	Insect leg in loaf	Warning letter to baker
Bread	Private Individual	Rodent excreta in loaf	Vendors cautioned
Damson Plums	Private Individual	Soft, unusable and maggoty	Vendor cautioned
Dressed Crab	Private Individual	Discolouration	No evidence of contamination discovered. No further action taken
Fish Cakes	Private Individual	Mould	Seized—condemned by Magistrate. Manufacturers contacted and no action taken
Fruit Cake	Private Individual	Mould	Warning letter sent to Vendor
Fowl	Routine Inspection	Decomposed	Seized—condemned by Magistrate. Vendor prosecuted. Fined £5
Fruit Pie	Private Individual	Mould	Vendors prosecuted. Fined £10 and £10 for pie in possession
Herring Roes	Routine Food Sampling	Mould	Vendors prosecuted. Fined £5 and £2 2s. costs
Milk	Private Individual	Foreign body in bottle	Referred to L.A. in whose area dairy was situated
Milk	School	Glass in bottle	No action taken. Bottle damaged in transit
Milk	Private Individual	Cardboard paper in bottle	Vendor cautioned
Milk	School	Glass in bottle	Vendors prosecuted. Fined £30
Milk	Private Individual	Glass in bottle	Vendor cautioned
Milk (sterilized)	Private Individual	Mould on inside of cap	Warning letter sent to Vendor
Mussells	Private Individual	Bitter in taste	Bacteriologically satisfactory. No further action
Nut Crisps	Private Individual	Moth eggs and maggots	Warning letter
Pigeons	Public Health Inspector	Decomposed	Seized—condemned by Magistrate. Vendor prosecuted. Fined £5
Pork Pies	Private Individual	Mould	Vendors prosecuted. Fined £10
Prawns	Private Individual	Objectional taste and smell	Warning letter to Vendors
Salmon Paste	Private Individual	Piece of metal	Manufacturers cautioned

In addition the following food samples were submitted to the Public Analyst following up complaints from the purchasers :

Sample No. (Informal)	Commodity	Remarks
C.857	Bread	Foreign body. Vendor cautioned
C.858	Fruit Pie	Contained amorphous dirt. Manufacturers cautioned
C.940	Orange Juice	Contained fish oil to extent of 2.56%. Vendor warned
C.962	Apples	Submitted in connection with food poisoning—satisfactory
C.993	Black Pudding	Discolouration—Vendor interviewed
18	Whisky	Complaint of harsh flavour—satisfactory

4. Milk

(A) DAIRIES AND DISTRIBUTORS

Premises registered as Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	8
Milk Distributors :						
(i) Trading from premises in Bedford	...	...	...	...	...	56
(ii) Trading from premises outside Bedford	...	...	...	...	...	4

(B) MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) LICENCES

	No. of Licences	
	Traders in Borough	Traders outside Borough
Pasteurised Milk	61*	4
Tuberculin Tested Milk	38	4
Sterilised Milk	17	1
Total	116	9

* Includes two pasteurisation plants.

(C) EXAMINATION OF SPECIALLY DESIGNATED MILKS

Source	Grade	Number of samples	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Dairy	Pastuerised	12	11	1
	T.T. Pasteurised	8	8	—
	T.T. (Raw)	26	25	1
Roundsmen ...	Pasteurised	39	38	1
	T.T. Pasteurised	32	27	5
	Sterilised	8	8	—
Schools ...	Pasteurised	91	91	—
Shops ...	Pasteurised	72	71	1
	T.T. Pasteurised	38	30	8
	Sterilised	37	37	—
Totals ...		363	346	17*

* Seven of these tests were invalid as the atmosphere shade temperature exceeded 65 degrees F.

5. Food Premises

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Brewery and Soft Drink Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Canteens (school and works)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Chemists	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Confectioners (flour)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Confectioners (sugar)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Corn and Flour Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Fishmongers (including fish friers)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Flour Mills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Storage Depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Grain Silo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	181
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Sweet and Chocolate Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

In addition there are forty-eight food stalls on the Market Square, as follows :

Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Snack Bar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

6. Factories Act, 1937

(A) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	No. on Register	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	42	3	—	—
*(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	266	82	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ...	43	17	—	—
Total	351	102	3	—

* Many of these are small factories where only a few persons are employed.

(B) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which proceedings were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Lack of cleanliness ...	2	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	4	4	—	—	—
Total	6	5	—	—	—

(C) OUTWORK

The following shows the number of outworkers on the register :

Nature of Work					No. of Persons
Wearing apparel (making, etc.)	...	...	...	...	28
Household linen	...	...	...	...	4
Curtains and furniture hangings	...	...	...	...	2
Furniture and upholstery	...	...	...	...	1
Total					35

7. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

(A) PREMISES INSPECTED AND TREATED

	Type of property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling- houses	Agricul- tural	Business	Total
Number of properties inspected—					
(a) on complaint	8	248	5	45	306
(b) on survey	4	103	1	185	293
Number of properties found to be infested with rats—					
(a) major	—	—	—	—	—
(b) minor	8	145	6	29	188
Number of properties found to be infested with mice ...	1	103	—	18	122
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	9	248	6	47	310
Number of re-visits to infested premises	25	619	9	104	757
Number notices served—					
(i) treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) structural works ...	—	—	—	1	1
Number of block control schemes carried out			—		

(B) SEWER TREATMENTS

Number of manholes baited	...	...	...	...	...	690
Number of manholes showing prebait take	...	...	...	...	...	311
Number of manholes showing no take	...	...	...	...	...	379

8. Premises Disinfested

Premises	Nature of Vermin	Number of Premises
Houses—Council	Bugs	7
	Ants	10
	Wasps	1
	Beetles, etc.	18
Houses—privately owned	Bugs	9
	Ants	16
	Wasps	17
	Beetles, etc.	12
Business premises	Beetles, etc.	3
Total		93

9. Summary of General Inspections and Administrative Duties

Housing

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957	...	102
Houses requiring repairs	...	5
Houses totally unfit for human habitation	...	97
Houses repaired	...	5
Premises inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936	...	291
Premises where nuisances discovered	...	128
Premises where nuisances abated	...	135
Revisits to houses under Housing and Public Health Acts	...	615

Overcrowding (not including Houses Let in Lodgings)

Visits	...	28
Houses found to be overcrowded	...	1

Infectious Diseases

Investigations undertaken	...	315
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Verminous and other Conditions

Visits to verminous premises	...	101
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Drainage

House drains tested on payment of fee	...	4
Drains tested or inspected on complaint	...	134
Revisits during repairs or reconstruction	...	280

Visits to

Houses Let in Lodgings	757
Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.	195
Public Houses	28
Hotels	5
Restaurants	133
Fish Frying Premises	13
Slaughterhouses	1,383
Dairies and Milkshops	81
Other Shops and Premises where Food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale	1,849
Bakehouses	60
Places of Entertainment	27
Factories with mechanical power	102
Factories without mechanical power	3
Work places	17
Outworkers' premises	5
Offices	3
Shops under Section 38, Shops Act, 1950	70
Premises where animals are kept	2
Offensive trades premises	3
Manufacturers and Stores—Rag Flock and other filling materials	2
Sundry nuisances	148
Miscellaneous visits	585
Borough Mortuary	46
Baths and Treatment Centre	5

Food and Drugs

Samples submitted to Public Analyst :	
Milk	91
Ice Cream	7
Other foods and drugs	63
Samples examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service :	
Milk	363
Ice Cream	49
Samples examined at the Public Health Department :	
Milk	2
Total number of samples obtained for examination	575

Rats and Mice Destruction

Inspection of premises by Public Health Inspectors	136
Inspection of premises by Rodent Operators	599
Visits for treatment, including revisits	1,067

Rent Restriction Acts

Interviews	137
Inspections for Certificates of Disrepair	95

Sewers							
Samples for pathological examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Smoke Abatement							
Observations made	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Interviews with managers, stokers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Inspection of boiler plant	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Survey visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	239
General and Office Routine							
Visits for interviews with owners, agents, builders, tenants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	422
Interviews at office with owners, agents, builders, tenants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	396

General Administration					Informal	Formal
Notices served :						
Housing Act	...	...	...	21	8
Public Health Act		...	...	128	98
Shops Act	...	...	...	1	—
Factories Act	...	...	...	3	—
Food and Drugs Act		...	...	35	—
Clean Air Act	...	...	...	1	—
Total number of notices served					189	106

10. Detailed Nature of Work carried out as a Result of Inspections

(A) DWELLINGHOUSES

General Improvements

Defective roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	41
Eaves gutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	25
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	15
Defective walls, brickwork and pointing made sound	...	...	...	...	25
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	3
Defective floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Defective windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	26
Defective doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Defective firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	13
Defective stair treads repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Handrails to stairs provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Defective coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Glazed sinks provided in lieu of defective sinks	...	...	...	...	5
Sinks and waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Chimney heads or pots repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Defective ceilings made sound	...	...	...	...	7

Water Closets

Structural works undertaken	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pedestal pans provided in lieu of defective pans	...	...	...	...	...	25
Fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9

Yards

Houses at which paving was repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	21

(B) OTHER HOUSING ACCOMMODATION**Houses Let in Lodgings**

Additional cooking stoves provided	...	...	...	...	...	9
W.C. compartments repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rent books supplied	...	...	...	...	...	1

(C) FOOD PREMISES**Public Houses and Hotels**

W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Urinals provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Washbasins provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	8

Food Preparing Rooms

General cleansing and redecoration	...	...	...	...	...	11
Washbasins provided	...	...	...	...	...	17
W.C. compartments cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	8
W.C. compartments repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	7
First Aid equipment provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Clothing lockers provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Benches provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Artificial lighting provided to W.C. compartments	...	...	...	...	...	5
"Now wash your hands . . . " notices provided	...	...	...	...	...	9
Soap, towels and nail brushes provided	...	...	...	...	...	3

Places of Public Entertainment

Repairs and redecoration carried out	3
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Slaughterhouses

Regular periodic limewashing and general cleansing	7
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(D) OTHER PREMISES**Factories**

Sanitary accommodation requirements complied with :						
(a) Provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Regular periodic limewashing and general cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	1